

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

PROPERTY NAME: Willson's Chance
ADDRESS: 23931 Shore Highway (MD 404), Denton, MD 21629
OWNER: Mary Anne Walsh
TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 105
PROJECT: MD 404 from US 50 to Denton Bypass
SITE VISIT BY: Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.
NAME: Wendy Zug-Gilbert

INVENTORY NO. CAR-27

TAX MAP NUMBER: 27
AGENCY: MD SHA

DATE: July 2001

ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDED ☒

ELIGIBILITY NOT RECOMMENDED

CRITERIA: A; ☒ B; ☒ C; ☐ D
CONSIDERATIONS: A; ☐ B; ☐ C; ☐ D; ☐ E; ☐ F; ☐ G; ☐ NONE

IS PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES; ☒ NO
IS DISTRICT LISTED? YES; ☐ NO
NAME OF DISTRICT:

DOCUMENTATION ON THE PROPERTY/DISTRICT IS PRESENTED IN:
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION:

Summary Description:

Willson's Chance is located on the south side of Shore Highway (MD 404) across from its intersection with Holly Road, just west of Denton, in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The 250+-acre farm consists of a late eighteenth-century farmhouse and twentieth-century outbuildings, including two garages, a workshop (former granary), a milkhouse, and a woodshed. A nineteenth-century "folly" has been moved recently to the farm from a site in downtown Denton. The farmhouse is an impressive five-bay frame structure with a two-story gabled entry porch on the façade. It retains its original clapboard siding and six-over-six and nine-over-six sash windows. Architectural details include wide cornerboards on the main block of the dwelling and gabled dormers on the façade and rear elevations. Successive additions date from the mid-nineteenth century through the twentieth century. Outbuildings date to the twentieth century and are frame with vinyl siding and have metal-covered gable roofs. The milkhouse is a small, rusticated block structure with a gabled roof. The only nineteenth-century structure, which was relocated to the farm, is an octagonal frame "folly" in need of repair.

Significance:

Willson's Chance is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its significant residential architecture. The dwelling began as a small frame house and subsequent additions resulted in the current large farmhouse, which resembles many dwellings of the mid-nineteenth century. The two-story entrance porch is an uncommon and interesting feature in the area. The house was greatly modified by Colonel Richard Carter when he purchased the property in 1866. Willson's Chance is a significant example of early Victorian detail and taste in Caroline County. The progression of additions to the structure follows a development pattern found in other county residences.

PREPARED BY: Wendy Zug-Gilbert, Principal Investigator, Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.

Maryland Historical Trust Review

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended: ☒

Criteria: A; ☐ B; ☐ C; ☐ D **Considerations:** A; ☐ B; ☐ C; ☐ D; ☐ E; ☐ F; ☐ G; ☐ None

Comments:

Loss of integrity through several extensive remodelings; this pattern of expansion has not been shown to be significant

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date 09/25/01

Reviewer, NR program

Date 9/27/01

✓-entered

**CAROLINE COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET**

SURVEY NO.: CAR-27

NAME: Willson's Chance

LOCATION: 23931 Shore Highway (MD 404), just west of Denton

DATE: circa 1790-1820-1866

ACCESS: Private

DESCRIPTION:

Willson's Chance is located on the south side of Shore Highway (MD 404) across from its intersection with Holly Road, just west of Denton, in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The 250+-acre farm consists of a late eighteenth-century farmhouse and twentieth-century outbuildings, including two garages, a workshop (former granary), a milkhouse, and a woodshed. A nineteenth-century "folly" has been moved recently to the farm from a site in downtown Denton. The farmhouse is an impressive five-bay frame structure with a two-story gabled entry porch on the façade. It retains its original clapboard siding and six-over-six and nine-over-six sash windows. Architectural details include wide cornerboards on the main block of the dwelling and gabled dormers on the façade and rear elevations. Successive additions date from the mid-nineteenth century through the twentieth century. Outbuildings date to the twentieth century and are frame with vinyl siding and have metal-covered gable roofs. The milkhouse is a small, rusticated block structure with a gabled roof. The only nineteenth-century structure, which was relocated to the farm, is an octagonal frame "folly" in need of repair.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Willson's Chance is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its significant residential architecture. The dwelling began as a small frame house and subsequent additions resulted in the current large farmhouse, which resembles many dwellings of the mid-nineteenth century. The two-story entrance porch is an uncommon and interesting feature in the area. The house was greatly modified by Colonel Richard Carter when he purchased the property in 1866. Willson's Chance is a significant example of early Victorian detail and taste in Caroline County. The progression of additions to the structure follows a development pattern found in other Caroline County residences.

Maryland Historical Trust

Addendum to

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CAR-27

Willson's Chance

23931 Shore Highway (MD 404)
Denton, MD 21629
Caroline County
Private

Owner:

Mary Ann Walsh
23931 Shore Highway
Denton, MD 21629

7. Description

Willson's Chance is an impressive frame dwelling located on the south side of Shore Highway (MD 404) across from its intersection with Holly Road, just west of Denton in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The property consists of over 250 acres, but the house and several of its outbuildings are situated on a 1.25-acre parcel within the farmland. The dwelling, a portion of which dates to the late eighteenth century, was remodeled and enlarged during the mid-nineteenth century giving it the form and appearance seen today. Its two-story entrance porch is an unusual architectural feature in the area. The property is currently tenant farmed with none of its original agricultural outbuildings remaining.

This property was documented within the past twenty years (no name or date on form) and no significant alterations have been made to the resource. See that form for a more detailed description of this resource. However, this addendum to the original MHT form was completed to document several historic outbuildings that were overlooked on that initial form.

Outbuildings: Although none of the original outbuildings have survived, there are historic outbuildings on the property. These include a garage, a milkhouse, and a workshop (originally a granary) all of which date to the early twentieth century. The property also has a modern woodshed and garage. An additional historic structure has recently been added to the property. A nineteenth-century "folly" has been moved from a site in downtown Denton.

The garage is a single-bay gable-front frame structure on a poured concrete foundation. Its roof is metal and its walls are covered with aluminum siding. The workshop, or original granary, is a large frame structure that sits on concrete block piers, is covered with aluminum siding, and has a side-gabled metal roof. The milkhouse is a small gabled structure built of rusticated concrete block with a metal roof. The "folly" is an octagonal frame structure with windows. The roof is in need of repair.

8. Significance

See original MHT form for statement of significance for Willson's Chance.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 250+ acres
Acreage of historical setting 250+ acres
Quadrangle name Denton, MD (1973)

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The recommended National Register boundary for Willson's Chance consists of a 3-acre area (roughly 425' x 300') that is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the southern right-of-way of Shore Highway (MD 404) opposite Holly Road; then south 500 feet to a point; then east 300 feet to a point; then north 350 feet to a point on the southern right-of-way of MD 404; then along the right-of-way 300 feet to the point of beginning. Containing approximately 3 acres. See attached site plan for a representation of this boundary.

Since Willson's Chance is noteworthy primarily for its architecture and not its agricultural history, its boundary was drawn to include the late eighteenth-century residence, its associated outbuildings, the drive up to the residence, and enough acreage to introduce the property and its location on the landscape. Additional farmland was purposely excluded from the boundary since this property is not the agricultural hub of the larger acreage owned and leased out by the current owner.

11. Form Prepared By

Wendy Zug-Gilbert, Principal Investigator
Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.
101 North Pennsylvania Avenue, PO Box 482
Centre Hall, PA 16828 (814) 364-2135
July 2001

Willson's Chance

PRESERVATION VISION 2000: THE MARYLAND PLAN STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. GEOGRAPHIC REGION:

- X EASTERN SHORE (ALL EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES AND CECIL)
- WESTERN SHORE (ANNE ARUNDEL, CALVERT, CHARLES, PRINCE GEORGE'S, ST. MARY'S)
- PIEDMONT (BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE, CARROLL, FREDERICK, HARFORD,, HOWARD,
MONTGOMERY)
- WESTERN MARYLAND (ALLEGANY, GARRETT, WASHINGTON)

II. CHRONOLOGICAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PERIODS:

- X RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION (A.D. 1680-1815)
- X AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION (A.D. 1815-1870)
- X INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE (A.D. 1870-1930)
- MODERN PERIOD (A.D. 1930-PRESENT)
- UNKNOWN PERIOD (PREHISTORIC; HISTORIC)

III. HISTORIC PERIOD THEMES:

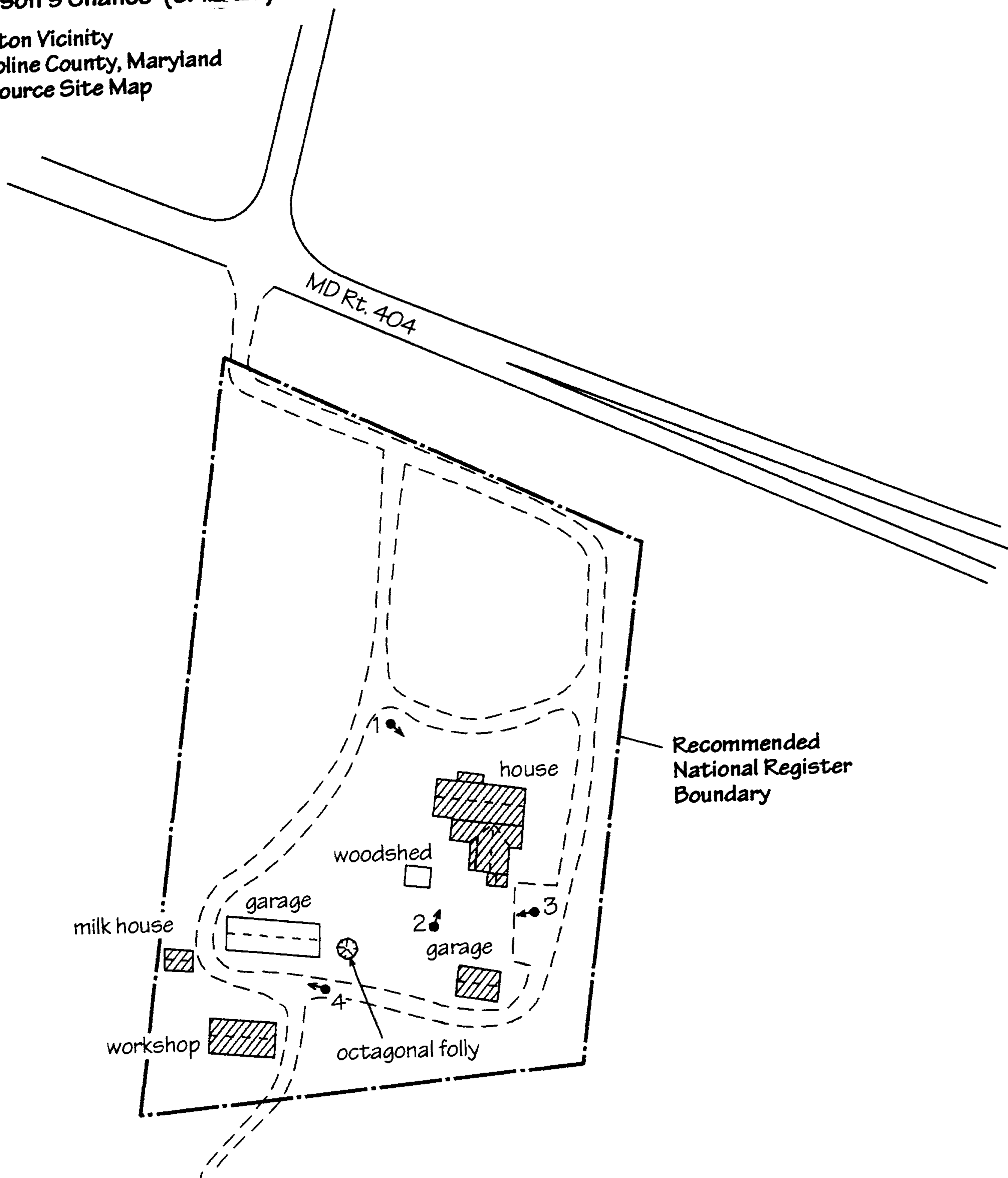
- X AGRICULTURE
- X ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, ARCHITECTURE, AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
- ECONOMIC (COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL)
- GOVERNMENT/LAW
- MILITARY
- RELIGION
- SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL
- TRANSPORTATION

IV. RESOURCE TYPE:

CATEGORY: farm
 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: rural
 HISTORIC FUNCTION(S) AND USE(S): farm
 KNOWN DESIGN SOURCE: none

Willson's Chance (CAR-27)

Denton Vicinity
Caroline County, Maryland
Resource Site Map



- = Photo Viewpoint
- ▨ = Historic Structure

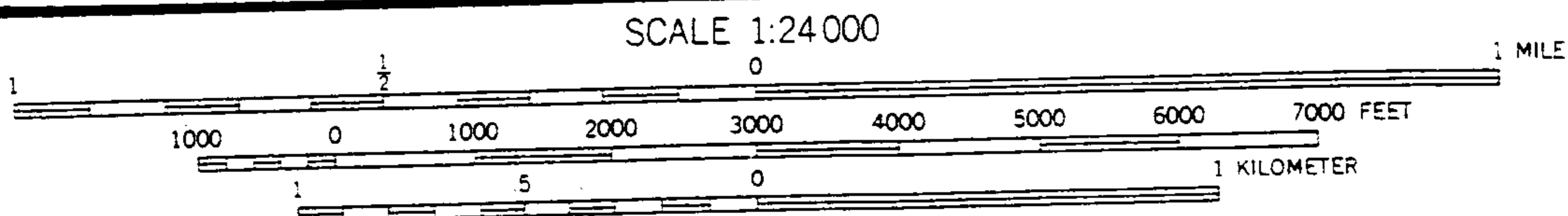
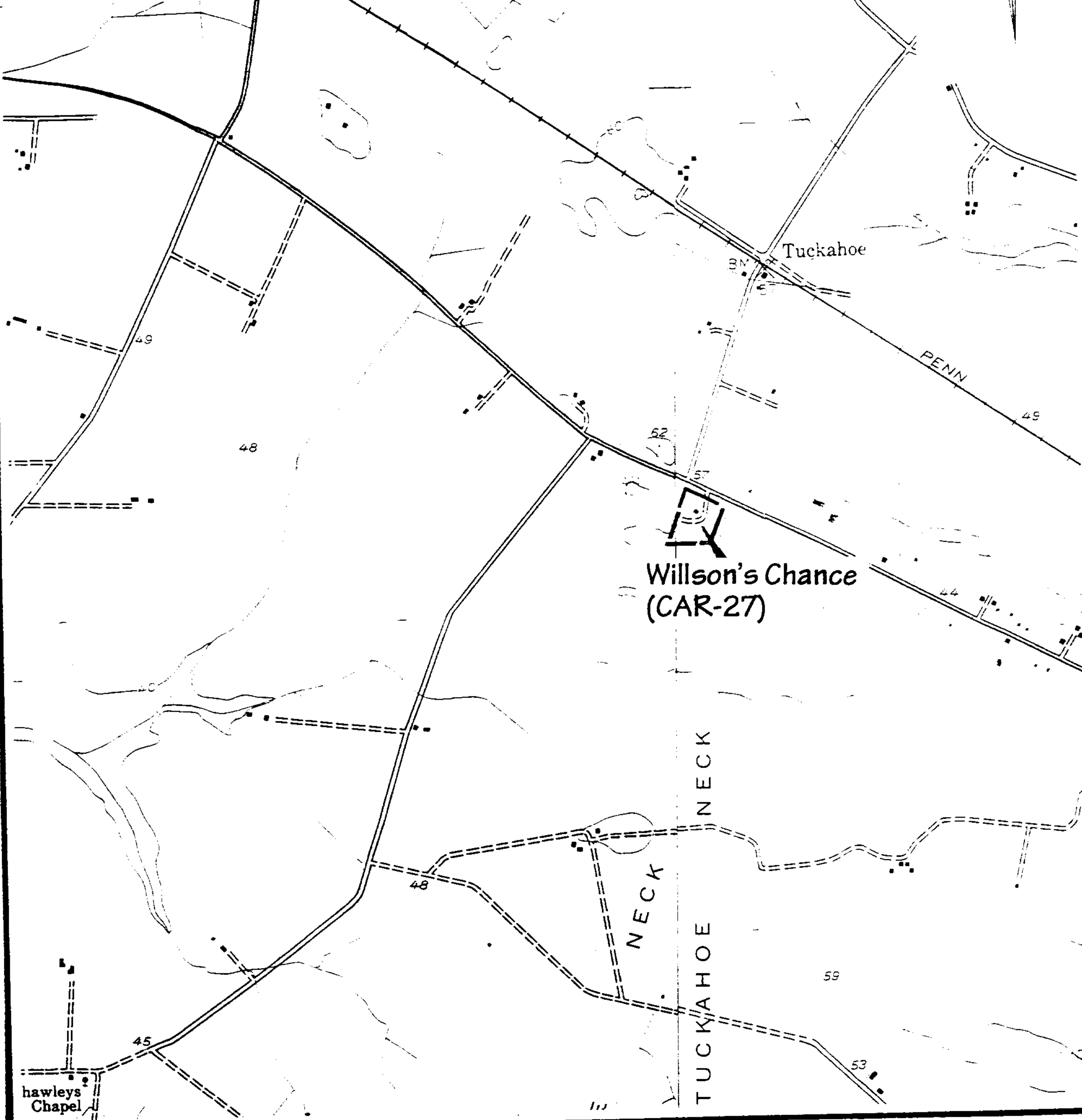
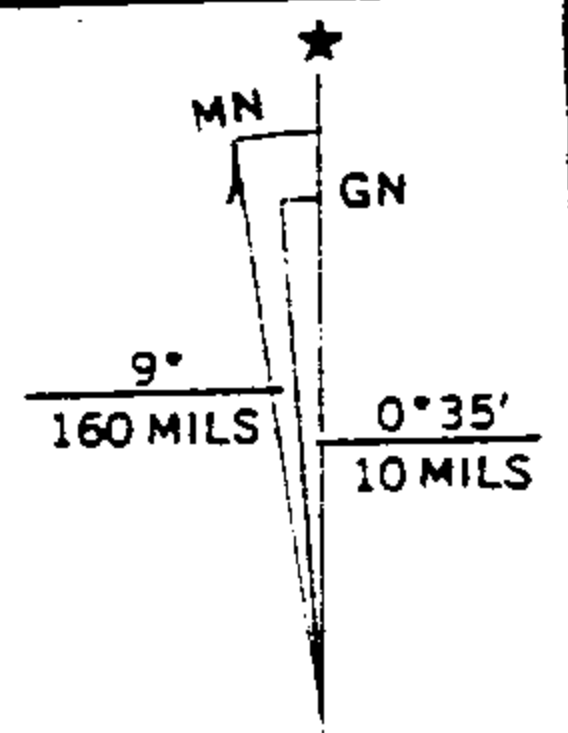
0 100
feet

0 30
meters

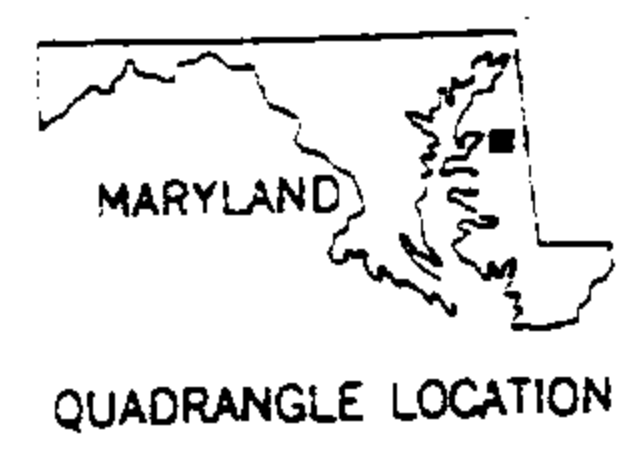


Willson's Chance (CAR-27)

Denton Vicinity
Caroline County, Maryland
Denton, MD Quadrangle



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET





CAR-27

Willson's Chance

Caroline County, Maryland

Wendy Zug-Gilbert

June 2001

MD SHPO

Farmhouse, facade, facing southeast.

1 of 4



CAR-27

Willson's Chance

Caroline's County, Maryland

Wendy Zug-Gilbert

June 2001

MD SHPO

Farmhouse, rear (south) elevation, facing north.

2 of 4



CAR-27

Willson's Chance

Caroline County, Maryland

Wendy Zug-Gilbert

June 2001

~~Archaeological~~ * Historical

Out buildings (garage, workshop, folly, garage), facing west

3 of 4



CAR-27

Willson's Chance

Caroline, County, Maryland

Wendy Zug-Gilbert

June 2001

MD SHPO

Outbuildings (milkhouse, garage, folly), facing west.

4 of 4

CAR-27
Willson's Chance
Denton
Private

Circa 1790-1820-1866

West of Denton is a good dwelling of the late 18th Century which was remodeled and enlarged in the early and mid-19th Century. It appears to have begun as a small frame house and later grew into a large farmhouse resembling many buildings of the mid-19th Century. Its two-story entrance porch is an uncommon feature in the area, reminiscent of Bloomingdale in Queen Anne's County.

Willson's Chance was surveyed in 1729 and was patented to James Willson in 1732. It continued to be owned by the Willson family until 1866 when Elisha Wilson sold the farm to Col. Richard Carter who remodeled the house.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Willson's Chance

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Intersection of Md. Rt. 404 and Holly Road

CITY, TOWN

Denton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Quentin R. Walsh

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 3, Box 184

CITY, TOWN

Denton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21629

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #: 151

Folio #: 396

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Willson's Chance is located on the south side of Maryland Route 404 across from the intersection with Holly Road west of Denton, Caroline County. It is a farm house which was remodeled in the 1860's by its owner, Colonel Carter, and thus its earlier features are hard to distinguish.

The house is a two and one-half story frame structure with a gable roof and interior brick chimneys at both ends. The north facade is five bays with a two story, gable roof central entrance porch supported by columns and with a baluster railing on the second story. 9/6 pane sash windows are on the first story and 6/6 on the second, all with black louvered shutters and 'S' shutter catches. The corners have wood pilaster strips each having two molded panels. There is a box cornice and on the roof are three gabled dormers with 6/6 windows. The west facade has small 2/2 windows in the half story. These are repeated on the east facade, where there is also a Victorian bay window with pierced bracket and dentil cornice. On the east side of the rear facade is a two bay deep ell service wing with two entrance porches.

The interior has a central hall plan with a room to each side. The central hall has the staircase which runs open string to the attic. It has slender turned newel post and thin square balusters. The east room has older woodwork that that found elsewhere in the house with quirk-ogee molded door and window frames and a plainly styled mantel piece. The west room has more elaborate trim, especially on the mantel piece, of the early Victorian period as found in Caroline County.

It appears that the earliest section of the house was a two bay single room structure to which the three west bays were added. Evidence of the earlier house is found in the off-centered position of the central door and western two bays of the main facade and by a break in the wood cornice between the second from the east bay and the central door. There is also some early shingles in the ell showing where a section of it had been enlarged and added to.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The survey of "Willson's Chance" was recorded in 1729 and in 1732 the tract was patented to James Willson. The Willson family owned a large amount of land in this area and down to the Choptank River. The property passed through several branches of the family and the 1798 tax list assesses several Willson properties. The Willson's Chance assessment is probably the one to James Willson, Sr. and includes two dwellings and several outbuildings. The eastern two bays of the present structure may be part of an early dwelling. In 1866, Elisha Wilson sold the property to Colonel Richard Carter who remodeled the house in the fashion of that period. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Quentin Walsh have shown great concern for all of the varying features of the house in their restoration of it. The farm house is a significant example of early Victorian detail and taste in Caroline County. The progression of additions to the house follows a development pattern found in several other Caroline County houses.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, & Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

February, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



CAR-27 WILLSON'S CHANCE